

New Bridge served as a battleground, fort, encampment ground, military headquarters, and intelligence-gathering post in every year of the American Revolutionary War.

Famous Faces of New Bridge during the American Revolution:

WASHINGTON headquartered here for 16 days in 1780, **Thomas Paine**, Major General Friedrich Wilhelm **Baron von Steuben**, Major General **Marie Joseph du Motier, Marquis de LaFayette**, Major General **Nathanael Greene**, Major General **Anthony Wayne**, Royal Governor **William Franklin**, Founding Fathers **Aaron Burr** and **Alexander Hamilton**, Lt. Col. **Henry Lee**, Capt. **John Outwater**, Major **John Andre**, Lt. General Sir **Henry Clinton**, Lieutenant General **Charles Lord Cornwallis**, Major General **Charles Grey**, Capt. **Patrick Ferguson**, Col. **Francis Lord Rawdon**, Lt. Col. **Stephen Kemble**, Capt. **Johann Ewald**, Brigadier General **Cortland Skinner**, Lt. **James Moody** were all at New Bridge during the American Revolution. Per military historian Todd Braisted.

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Bergen County Historical Society
PO Box 55, River Edge, New Jersey 07661-0055
contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org
www.bergencountyhistory.org

Historic New Bridge Landing is open for special events by BCBS volunteers. See website for event schedule, more history, mobile app and map. BCBS members receive event email blasts and postcards.

BCBS: The Bergen County Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization, founded in 1902. We are not a government agency. We do not seek public operating grants, instead we rely on private donations and membership. We are raising funds to build a museum for our extensive collections of artifacts and archives. BCBS is proud to be the lead member of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission.

DIRECTIONS: The entrance to Historic New Bridge Landing is located on the west bank of the Hackensack River on Main Street, River Edge, NJ. Nearby streets are marked with brown Historic New Bridge Landing signs. HNBL is only 7 miles from New York City via the George Washington Bridge (take Route 4 West). Or, take the Garden State Parkway (Exit 161) or Rte 17 to Rte 4 East. From either direction, take Hackensack Ave North, go through 2 lights and bear right on jughandle for Main Street, River Edge. The parking lot is located at corner of Hackensack Ave and Main St by the large blue HNBL entrance sign. HNBL is only 1 block from the New Bridge Landing Train Station on the Pascack Valley line, which connects Hoboken, Secaucus and Spring Valley, NY. Visit njtransit.com **Map Search:** 1201 Main St, River Edge, NJ.

100% of your donation goes to our mission
bergencountyhistory.org

Just some of the BCBS artifacts – all made or used in Bergen County:

- Van Saun and Wolfkiel slip-decorated red ware and salt-glazed pottery
- Quilts, 3 dozen, including the exceptional Betsey Haring appliqué quilt
- Bergen Dutch ladder-back chairs
- Flattened musket balls that struck the Steuben House in Rev War
- Medicine chest of Dr. John Garretson, of Campgaw, including original tools, bottles and herbal remedies

Daguerreotype of Betty. Born into slavery at time of Rev War, emancipated in 1840, died in 1871 at New Bridge

15-foot white-oak dugout canoe, unearthed in Hackensack in 1868

English bacon settle, dating to 1767

Effigy pipe, found in Hackensack

1670 wax doll, with a cloth body stuffed with sawdust, formerly belonging to Dr. John Redmond Cox, of Trenton

Hackensack “matchstick” furniture

David Arnot’s oil painting of the Banta Docks on the Hackensack River, c.1860

Only known large “crayon portraits” done by James Van Dyke, depicting sons of Daniel P. Demarest of the Flatts (Oradell)

John Hopper’s tavern sign with portrait of Jefferson, done in Jefferson’s lifetime

Goddess Cybele in her Chariot – 3 water colors by Margaret Van Wagoner c.1830

18th century bed; family tradition maintains George Washington slept in it in 1780

Bergen Dutch jacquard-woven coverlets

Extensive library & rare document collection

Zinc cigar store Indian

Chip-carved spoonboards

Button collection

Brick collection!

Some items on exhibit – We have a fundraising campaign to build a museum at New Bridge to care for collections.



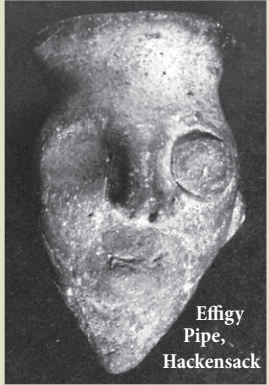
coverlet motif



Watercolor, Cybele in her Chariot



Betty, lived at New Bridge



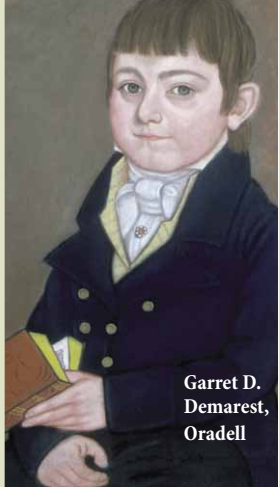
Effigy Pipe, Hackensack



Washington Mourning Art



Quilt by Betsey Haring



Garret D. Demarest, Oradell



BCBS Blue Markers are located throughout the county – website has marker booklet www.bergencountyhistory.org

Historic New Bridge Landing



Experience history in one of the storied places where it was made...



18th century tile BCBS collections

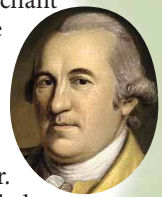
- Battleground in the American Revolution
- The Steuben House survived more of the American Revolution than any other home in America
- Washington’s headquarters for 16 days in 1780
- Distinctive Bergen County artifacts & architecture including 3 sandstone houses
- One of the last unspoiled vistas in the central valley of the Hackensack River
- 7 miles from the George Washington Bridge
- 2 blocks from the New Bridge Landing Train Station on the Pascack Valley Line to Secaucus

WALKING TOUR

Historic Buildings Open for Special Events
Check Website for Schedule
www.bergencountyhistory.org

Bergen County Historical Society
Historic New Bridge Landing
1201 Main Street, River Edge, New Jersey

① Steuben House Jan and Annetje (Ackerman) Zabriskie prospered as miller and merchant at this site. They built a five-room stone cottage in 1752 and enlarged the house to the present size in 1767 by adding a second story along the rear and the entire north block with its paneled parlor and bed chamber. During the Rev War, the Zabriskies sided with the Crown and fled to British-held Manhattan. Washington made the house his headquarters for 16 days in 1780. The State of New Jersey presented the confiscated house to **Major-General Baron von Steuben** in 1783. It is the only extant 18th century building he owned. Described in 1784 as a “Large Mansion House containing twelve rooms built with stone, with Out-houses consisting of a Bake House, Smoke House, Coach House, and two large Barns, and a Garden, Forty Acres of Land consisting of Meadow Land and two Orchards.” Steuben’s aide-de-camp, **Capt. Benjamin Walker** resided here, while Steuben made regular visits and summer retreats from his Manhattan lodgings. Steuben restored the war-damaged home and this is largely the house that you see today. He sold it back to the Zabriskies in 1788. The house and one acre were purchased by State of NJ in 1928. In 1939, BCHS was invited to display its collections at the museum. BCHS purchased the adjacent 8 acres in 1944, thus preserving a fragment of Bergen Dutch countryside.



Steuben

② New Bridge A “New Bridge” with sliding draw was built here in 1745. Describing the American retreat from Fort Lee on November 20, 1776, eyewitness **Thomas Paine** wrote, “Our first object was to secure the bridge over the Hackensack...” memorializing the darkest hour in the hopes for American independence as the “times that try men’s souls.” This strategic crossing was in constant conflict during the war because it was the first bridge above Newark Bay. See Battleground List top-right. The present Pratt-type low-truss swing bridge opened Feb. 2, 1889. One person alone could rotate the bridge to let ships pass. Closed to auto traffic in 1956. Listed on NJ & National Registers by BCHS as the oldest highway swing-bridge in NJ.

③ New Bridge Landing A narrow mill landing, built of log cribbing in 1744, could accommodate sloops of 40-ton burden. Local products were shipped south, including iron which was brought overland from Ringwood and Long Pond Ironworks. Merchandise brought back from city markets was sold in the Zabriskie store (See website for store inventory).

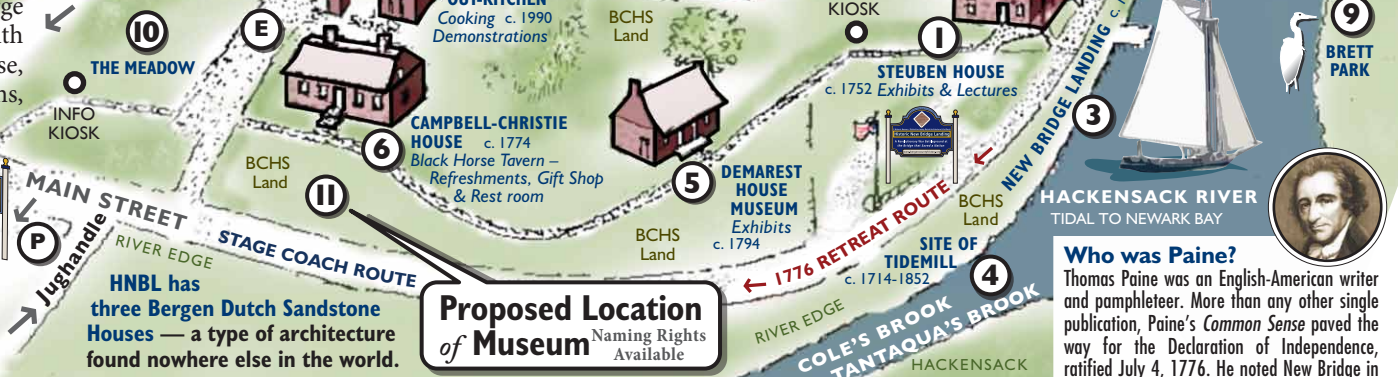
HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING

Headquarters of the Bergen County Historical Society

Who was Steuben?
Baron von Steuben offered his services “as a Volunteer” to the American Congress in December 1777. He is best remembered for organizing & training the Continental troops at Valley Forge. He was commissioned Inspector-General, May 5, 1778.

WALKING TOUR

- 2 Blocks to the New Bridge Landing Train Station on the Pascack Valley Line
- 1/2 Mile to Route 4
- 7 Miles to GWB

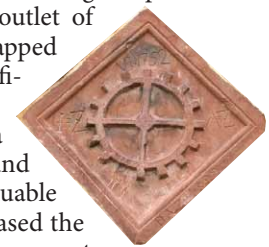


HNBL has three Bergen Dutch Sandstone Houses — a type of architecture found nowhere else in the world.

Proposed Location of Museum Naming Rights Available

OPEN FOR SPECIAL EVENTS • CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR SCHEDULE • bergencountyhistory.org

④ Zabriskie’s Mills Johannes Ackerman resided near the present intersection of Main St. and Elizabeth Ct. He built a gristmill, 40 x 20 feet, containing two pairs of grinding stones in 1714 at the outlet of Cole’s Brook. High tide was trapped behind the dam, creating an artificial pond twice daily to run the waterwheel during ebb tide. Area farmers brought grain to be ground into flour for a more valuable commodity. **Jan Zabriskie** purchased the tidemill in 1745. The date stone lozenge set in the south end of the Zabriskie-Steuben House depicts the tide-driven waterwheel. Jan’s grandson, **John J. Zabriskie**, aged 25, died trying to free the waterwheel in 1793. The mill burned down in 1852.



Steuben House date stone

⑤ Demarest House Museum Two-room sandstone cottage was built in 1794 for miller **John Paulson** at the time of his marriage to **Altie Ely**. The stove chimney in east room is a technological advance over fireplaces. House moved from original site beside French Burial Ground in New Milford in 1955-56. Demarest family and Bergen Dutch artifacts on display. Owned by the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation; restored in 2009.

⑥ Campbell-Christie House Jacob Campbell, a mason, erected this gambrel-roofed, center-hall sandstone dwelling at River Rd. & Henley Ave., New Milford, in 1774 at the time of his marriage to **Altche Westervelt**. Jacob was a private in the Bergen Militia and the house was damaged in the Rev War. **John Christie**, blacksmith, purchased the house in 1795 and continued its operation as a tavern. **J. Walter Christie**, born in the house in 1865, is considered the “father of the modern tank” and best known for developing the Christie Suspension System used in World War II. Threatened with demolition, the house was moved here onto BCHS land in 1977 by the County of Bergen. Operated & funded by BCHS, and interpreted as an 18th century tavern. Refreshments, gift shop & rest room (when open).



Christie

⑦ Westervelt-Thomas Barn Built 1889 by **Peter J. Westervelt** on his farm on Ridgewood Rd, Washington Township. **Henry Thomas** purchased farm in 1906. Donated to BCHS and relocated in 1955.

⑧ Out-Kitchen Authentic out-kitchen, replicating the **John R. Demarest** out-kitchen in Demarest.

AMERICAN BATTLEGROUND

While a constant arena for conflict, the following significant Revolutionary War events are associated with New Bridge:

- British troops under Major General Vaughan attacked the American rear guard on November 21, 1776, and seized the New Bridge, which American engineers were dismantling.
- British and Loyalist troops under command of Captain Patrick Ferguson attacked about 40 Bergen militiamen at New Bridge on May 18, 1779.
- Major Henry Lee led American troops from New Bridge, August 18, 1779, to attack the British earthworks at Paulus Hook (Jersey City).
- A force of Bergen Militia and Continental troops attacked 600 British troops and German auxiliaries at New Bridge on their retreat from Hackensack & Paramus on March 23, 1780, during the 2 hours it took for the British to repair and cross the New Bridge.
- A body of 312 British, Loyalist and German infantry attacked and overwhelmed an American outpost at New Bridge commanded by Lieutenant Bryson on April 15, 1780.
- Eight British soldiers were killed and several wounded by friendly fire when British troops attempted to attack a body of Bergen Militia in the Zabriskie-Steuben House at New Bridge on May 30, 1780.
- Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led American troops from New Bridge on a raid against the Bull’s Ferry Blockhouse on July 20, 1780.
- General Washington made his headquarters in the Zabriskie-Steuben House during the Steenrapie Encampment (along Kinderkamack Rd) of the Continental Army, encompassing 14,000 men, on September 4-20, 1780.



Washington by Trumbull, 1780

Built by BCHS in 1990, using antique materials, it includes a working beehive oven and smoke room. These separate kitchen structures kept the heat of cooking out of the main dwelling during summer and prevented oven fires from consuming the home. Located nearby is an Outhouse c.1930 from Closter.

⑨ Brett Park Part of the New Bridge Battleground during the American Revolution. Later site of Rekow’s Farm and Bensen’s Campgrounds. Named after former Teaneck Mayor Clarence Brett in 1971. *The Friends of the Hackensack Greenway through Teaneck* maintain a southbound 3.5 mile pathway with access in Brett Park.

⑩ The Meadow The autoparts yard, completely re-mediated by 2010, is now an open meadow in HNBL.

⑪ The Site of Future BCHS Museum & Library Building Elevated building planned to allow for exhibits and safe storage of the BCHS collections.

Prehistory The clay flat on the west bank of the river was known as Tantaqua’s Plain, inhabited by **Tantaqua**, a Hackensack sachem, and his kin (Steuben House location). Artifacts as old as 5,000 years have been found here and may be on exhibit.

